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FTA NEWS

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

Vol. VIII, No. 2 | February 15, 1948 | Price 5 Cents

A Paul Jones gets underway in one of the Saturday night dances in the Local 22 hall for making and packing department workers at the Reynolds Tobacco Company in Winston-Salem, N. C. Social activity, and the skyrocketing popularity of the dances, have gone a long way to show workers in these long-unorganized departments that they, too, can get together and build a solidarity and fellowship which can be translated into the wage gains and other benefits of union organization. Not only square dances, with a string band from among the workers themselves, but popular recordings, jitterbug stuff and otherwise, provide entertainment.

Night shift workers in Reynolds making and packing departments relax after work in the Making and Packing Club, set up with the cooperation of the FTA Organizing Committee. Getting off in the wee hours of the morning, when there's "nothing going on," can be pretty boresome. Young people especially say the club has filled a real need, and have done a lot of work "fixing it up." There's a juke-box, coffee to drink, time to talk and get acquainted with fellow workers . . .

LAUNCH NEW DRIVE IN REYNOLDS PLANT

A cut in hours to seven per day, plus the constant increase in the cost of living is lending speed to the drive to complete 100 percent organization in the huge R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. plant in Winston-Salem, N. C., largest cigarette factory in the world.

The drive, undertaken by Local 22, has the cooperation of the North Carolina state CIO, with a team of eight CIO organizers at present working with Local 22 leaders and rank and file members to bring the benefits of industrial unionism to the thousands of Reynolds workers.

Contract renewal time is coming up March 1, with the expiration date of May 1. Chief issues under discussion are:

1. A general wage increase.
2. **Full job security, which means promotions by seniority rather than favoritism, stronger grievance adjustment machinery and fair job classification on a plantwide basis.**
3. Two weeks summer vacation with pay.
4. **Shorter steps in the "automatic progression" setup to enable workers to reach top pay scales in their jobs with less delay.**
5. Pensions big enough to live on, with company-paid insurance and larger benefits.
6. **An end to the present 14 week exemption on overtime pay, through which the company is allowed to work its employes at back-breaking hours during the rush season without extra compensation.**

In a public statement issued in a full page newspaper advertisement, Local 22 put its contract demands before the people on a community basis, saying:

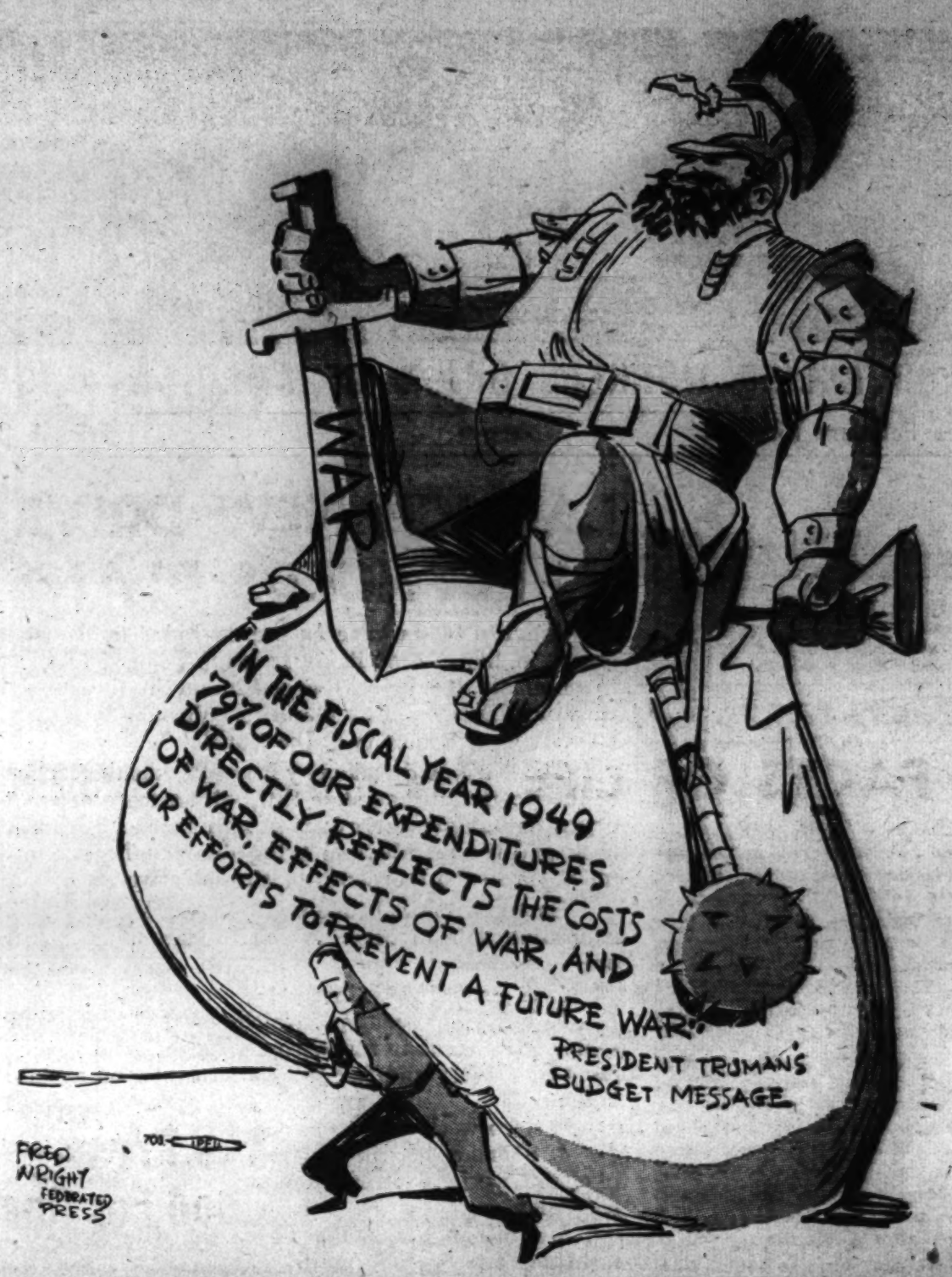
"Local 22, FTA-CIO, in the four years of its bargaining history here has won gains that have benefited the whole city. Wages were raised an average of $800 per person—a total of some $8,000,000 that Reynolds workers were able to spend for food, clothing, medical care and other necessities. Business in Winston-Salem today is benefitting from a buying power much greater that it would otherwise have been.

"Wages, seniority and adequate pensions guaranteed in the union contract mean a secure living for the families of Reynolds workers.

"They mean that Reynolds workers can become homeowners, taxpayers, supporters of the schools and churches.

"They mean a better and more prosperous community."

Jackie Holland gets the prize for best dancer at one of the Making and Packing department dances in the FTA hall. Ruel Tolbert, at her left, got second prize. Jackie shone at jitterbugging. Ed Hinkle, of Reynolds A-1 day shift, is presenting the prizes.



3rd PARTY 'FAILURES'

Commonest criticism of the new people's party heard from the faint-hearted and the ill-informed is this: it can't work because a third party never has succeeded in the U. S. A.

This is the line they peddle when the other one—that all a new party will do is elect Taft—falls of its own weight.

Let's look at the record:

American history is full of so-called "third parties." Every one of them that dealt with real issues either became a major party in short order or achieved its aims through pressure on already existing parties.

They didn't all make the grade in the first try either—nor did their early backers expect them to.

The earliest "third party" was Thomas Jefferson's Republican party which he started in 1798 in opposition to the witch-hunters and red-baiters of his day.

Jefferson's new party came to power in 1801 and stayed in power for 24 years. Jefferson was also the leader in adopting the Bill of Rights of the U. S. Constitution.

When Jefferson's party began to rot after his death in 1826, Andrew Jackson built a 'third party' again, this time calling it the Democratic party. Jackson's party came to power in 1828 and made the first attack on monopoly and the big banks in the U. S.

But Jackson's party was taken over by the slave-owners in the 1850's and it too began to rot. Another "third party" was born in Ripon, Wisconsin, in 1854 and called the Republican party after Jefferson's party.

The new Republican party ran a candidate for President in 1856 and lost. In 1860, they elected their man, a westerner named Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln and his party were opposed to slavery, and slavery ended in 1865.

In the 1820's and 1830's there was a series of workingmen's parties in the U. S., mostly centered around the big cities such as New York, Philadelphia and Boston.

These parties never came to national power, but the issues they fought for became law. They also won many offices in local, state and later, in national elections.

The first workingmen's party (Philadelphia, 1828) set the pace for the others in demanding a shorter work day, the right to organize unions, free schools, no imprisonment for debt, votes for women and curbs on monopoly.

In 1892 something new came on the political scene—a farmer-labor party called the People's Party. It stood for the right of workers to organize, fought against Federal anti-union injunctions, demanded a national income tax, aid to farmers crushed by mortgages.

In 1924 old Bob LaFollette ran for President on a similar ticket and polled nearly five million votes. Neither the People's Party ("Populists") nor LaFollette's party came to power—but FDR's New Deal in the 1930's put most of their ideas into law.

As Henry Wallace said: "When the old parties rot, the people have a right to be heard through a new party."

The faint-hearted and the ill-informed say it can't be done. The history of the American people shows them to be wrong.

The history of 1948 and on will prove them wrong again.

FROM WASHINGTON

OPENING THE EYES OF SENATORS

By C. W. FOWLER

Normally the Senators in Washington lead a pretty sheltered life. They only have to stand for election every six years, and consequently, they don't see too much of the rank and file voter and citizen. Most of them are company lawyers by profession with rich clients, and they tend to associate with the well to do who are also shielded from life's tougher problems.

Two weeks ago, the Senators on the Banking and Currency Committee — now holding hearings on the high cost of living—got jarred out of their complacency for a few hours, anyway.

The jarring was done by a rank and file FTA member, Cyrus J. Waud of Local 80, employed at the Campbell Soup Company in Camden, N. J. Brother Waud has a wife and six children and an annual takehome pay of around $2,890. He told the Senators just how tough it is trying to feed eight on that kind of money.

The Senators were shocked. First off, they couldn't quite believe their ears. They made Brother Waud repeat the figures a couple of times. Then they became very intent in listening to him, and also very polite and attentive to Mrs. Waud and two of the six Waud children, who were sitting at the table with him.

Was it really possible, one of the Senators asked, to bring up six children on less than $3,000 a year? Well, answered Mr. Waud, its possible—but look at us. Our oldest is 11, and she weighs 60 pounds when she should weigh 80. I weigh 125. Sure it's possible — if you go without.

Another Senator wanted to know how often Mrs. Waud bought a new dress and was startled when she answered never—she got all her clothes from her sister.

The Senator from Virginia (Mr. Robertson) asked the witness how he felt about "democracy" and the "iron curtain" — which did he favor. He was too startled when Mr. Waud replied emphatically that he was 100% American and also liked to eat and see his family eat properly.

Well, the Senators were jarred out of their complacency for a while, anyway. Senator Tobey (R., N.H.) was so moved that he insisted on being photographed with the two children and gave them a $5.00 bill out of his own pocket. Senator Capehart (R., Ind.), a multi-millionaire manufacturer, was so moved that he kept his mouth shut after one question. Senator Robertson was so moved that he left the hearing room after his question.

But the Senators were not so moved that they're rushing to put price control back on food and other necessities. On the contrary, the newspapers (same ones that put the Waud story on page one all over the U.S.) report now that price control, especially on meat, is more remote than ever.

Truman's Administration, as usual is planning another appeal for "voluntary" rationing by consumers. Seems the last one was a failure, so it's time for a new one.

Meanwhile, the Waud family—and thousands like them with even less money—continue to go hungry. Their story made an impression on the Senators, no question of that. Even the most cynical big business agent in Congress has to listen when the rank and file speak up.

But it takes more than one family story, no matter how truthfully and simply told, to change the minds of members of the 80th Congress.

It takes political action and votes—and the support of millions of people for Henry Wallace and the new people's party that's now in the making.

CIO Fights US Draft

World peace cannot be achieved by compulsory military training in the USA, the CIO declared this week, renewing its opposition to Administration proposals for military training as outlined in the Towe bill (HR 4278).

Peacetime conscription never has proven to be either a preventive of war nor a defense against a well-prepared opponent," the CIO declared.

"Congressmen must decide whether or not they should yield to the demands of the military and a strong clique of American Legion top officers."

NEGRO HISTORY WEEK

This week—February 8 to 15—is Negro History Week, when the nation marks the contributions to America made by the Negro people.

Here's a suggestion that FTA News feels is one way for all of us to pay honor to a great people: let every member of FTA, Negro and white, write to Congress and the President demanding action on:

1. HR 3488; the Federal anti-lynching bill. 2. HR 2820; S 984; the Federal Fair Employment bill (FEPC; 3. HR 29, the polltax repeal bill.

Lynching, discrimination and the polltax help nobody but the bosses who make money out of such conditions. They hurt all workers, of all creeds, colors and political beliefs.

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HIGHWAY ROBBERY—TAFT-HARTLEY STYLE

Highway robbery, Taft-Hartley style, was practiced on some 60,000 California cannery workers when the National Labor Relations Board last month ordered the case of FTA vs. the cannery employers and the AFL Teamsters Union dropped.

The order to drop the case, in which FTA charged collusion between the Teamsters and the California Processors and Growers, Inc., in 1945 and 1946 came despite the fact that the Taft-Hartley act was not passed until a year after the 1946 election FTA has challenged.

(FTA, together with the CIO Steelworkers, the UE, the United Mine Workers and other unions representing more than two million workers has refused to go through the redtape of affidavits required by the NLRB.)

The case goes back to 1945, when the northern California cannery workers voted by a plurality for FTA only to have the election ruled invalid by the NLRB and again in 1946, when the Board refused to act on FTA charges of employer-Teamster intimidation in the close election then.

It means that the 60,000 cannery workers are again denied their right to choose their own union free of employer intimidation.

The NLRB regional office in California, however, announced that FTA charges of unfair firing and blacklisting of 800 cannery workers fired for FTA sympathy still stand, and will presumably be acted on by the Board.

The case of the California cannery workers is believed to be the biggest example yet of employer use of the Taft-Hartley act and the NLRB to deny workers the right to organize and bargain collectively in a union of their own free choice.

Meanwhile, rank and file workers in the canneries are making life tough for the bosses and their Teamster agents by demanding better wages and conditions than either are willing to give.

They're also laying the groundwork for the switch to FTA when the Taft-Hartley act is thrown in the ashcan.

"You've got to help us" is what FTA Local 80 member Cyrus J. Waud (2nd from left) told the Senate Banking and Currency Committee in hearings on the high cost of living in Washington. Brother Waud, shown here with Mrs. Waud and two of their six children, testified on the hard time he and his family have living on a takehome of approximately $2,800 a year from the Campbell Soup Co.

'Hard Work' Will Smash Taft-Hartley Conspiracy

The key to licking the Taft-Hartley act is through the shop stewards. This was brought home to over 75 stewards at the Middle Atlantic Region's first shop stewards conference on January 17, called to discuss the issues confronting workers today.

"The need to reach the broadest number of our members is becoming more than ever apparent," Regional Director Herb Kling declared, "and it is through the stewards, who are the leaders in their locals and in the shops that this can be accomplished."

FTA President Donald Henderson and attorney Saul Waldbaum analyzed employer propaganda being spread among the workers about the Taft-Hartley act. The bosses and their newspapers are trying to make the T-H law look like a boon to the workingman, but the legacy is really the employer's. What's fallen on the workingman is more like a ton of bricks, was how Waldbaum put it.

Henderson, outlining the general FTA policy on the Taft-Hartley act, pointed out that where we have economic strength, we will be in a better position to meet problems as they arise. "But," he said, "we are safe only so long as we have this economic strength. Stewards must be aware of what is going on, and take the leadership."

Reviewing the FTA Board's position of support to Henry Wallace for President, Henderson warned of the attempt to drive us to war. "The main obstacle in carrying out a war is the labor movement, and to remove this obstacle they must first divide, weaken and then smash it," he said.

Miriam Cliff, president of Local 638 reported that around Lancaster there is strong sentiment for Wallace. The Lancaster CIO Council received a telegram from CIO President Murray warning against support for Wallace. They answered by telling him that the rank and file was for Wallace. Local 638 is also on record.

John Tisa, FTA Director of Organization, emphasized that the union was built through struggle, and that under the Taft-Hartley law the struggle will continue and intensify. "The job of all stewards is to improve the service to our members, which means taking up grievances and making certain that problems are quickly settled," he said.

After taking up a collection for the Local 78 strike, the conference delegates discussed the need for a union defense fund, and voted to take the matter up with their membership for action.

"Hard work and lots of it" by shop stewards is the key to beating the bosses at their Taft-Hartley act game, FTA President Henderson (back to camera) told the mid-Atlantic Region stewards conference in Camden, N.J. Over 75 FTA shop stewards attended the day long session.

'You've Got To Help Us'

FACTS OF LIFE ON $50 A WEEK

The facts of life with six children to support on an average takehome of around $50 a week were told to the Senators in Washington by an FTA member and Campbell Soup worker from Camden, N.J., in an appearance at the Senate Banking and Currency Committee hearing on the high cost of living.

The story told by Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus J. Waud and two of their children was so grim that the Senators were deeply impressed, with Committee Chairman Tobey (R., N.H.) going out of his way to be polite to the witnesses and even the hostile Senators keeping quiet after a question or two.

"We don't have to bother with meatless Tuesdays or eggless Thursdays in our family," Waud told the committee. "We do without both on most days of the week anyway. Sixty-five cents a week is all we can afford for meat — and that buys about a pound and a half of hamburger."

Telling the committee that he had worked for the past three years in the Camden plant of the Campbell Soup Company, Waud explained that his average annual income was around $2,800. "That's not a living wage," he said. "We're just existing. We're up against it every week."

With help from Mrs. Waud, who sat by his side with the two oldest children at the witness table, Waud outlined the family budget for the Senators this way:

Rent (per month) $32—"we're lucky. We live in a government housing project." On top of that, though, there's a ton of coal to buy each month in the winter.

Food—about $20 to $22 a week —"used to be $15 before you gentlemen did away with price control."

Milk—14 quarts a week—"we should have at least four quarts a day, but milk is two quarts for 45 cents in Camden." (Lois, the older of the two children with the Wauds at the hearing, is 11 years old and weighs only 60 pounds. She should weigh at least 80.)

Clothing — as much as $70 a year for shoes — "girl's school shoes now cost $6.00 a pair, and $2.50 to have them resoled."

Amusements—none—"we don't go to the movies at all."

No tea, coffee, tobacco or strong drinks.

Candy for the children — 50 cents a week — "that's divided among six children."

It was just after this recital that Senator Robertson, a polltax statesman from Virginia, asked the standard question about "communism."

"You want us to preserve democracy and free enterprise, don't you?" the Senator asked, adding that Poland, Russia, Bulgaria and other European countries had no freedom because they had communism instead.

In fact, Senator Robertson made quite a little speech on "free enterprise," which he seemed to identify completely with democracy. Waud's answer was short:

"Communism is beside the point," he said. "I'm here on a bread and butter issue. If it is in your power I want you to do something."

Mrs. Waud, who backed up her husband's figures on the family budget, told the committee that she never buys a dress for herself, but makes do with things her sister gives her. All the children (and the parents, too) need dental care, but can't have it because the family hasn't got the money.

And by comparison with other workers — particularly those in some of the Southern states — the Wauds are fairly well paid.

The Press—Good For Once

The boss-owned press—and the radio too—had to admit that the story of the Waud family and their struggle to live on $50 a week was newsworthy, even though the Wauds are union members.

Every paper in the United States played up the story prominently, most of them on page one. Seventeen hundred daily papers that get Associated Press service carried a long and detailed AP story. Others with United Press service carried equally long stories, while almost all carried the Wauds' picture.

Most of the national network radio commentators used the story, many of them devoting several minutes to it.

Fred Othman, columnist for the Scripps - Howard press chain, did a column on it. The N.Y. World-Telegram, which is even more rabidly anti-union than Hearst, let it run one edition and then pulled it.

Win Raise In Local 20

Following a solid demonstration of unity based on "one for all and all for one," members of FTA Local 20, employes of the Huron Milling Company, Harbor Beach, Michigan, won their constitutional right to free speech plus their right to continue to by-pass the so-called benefits of the Taft-Hartley slave labor act and last but not least a 12 cent per hour increase in the adjustment of wage rates.

The local credits success in this recent struggle to its leaders, International Organizer S. O. Shachter; President Harold Richards; Secretary-Treasurer Russ DeFrain and chairman of the bargaining committee Harry Graham. Their slogan is now "renewed contract for 1948 without Taft-Hartley interference." The membership feels that unity plus its leadership will do the job.

Senator Tobey (R., N.H.) couldn't resist having his picture taken with Lois and Ruth Waud when their parents testified on the high cost of living before Tobey's Senate Banking Committee. Mr. Waud, a member of Local 80, and Mrs. Waud told of the urgent need for a return to price control to help them feed and house their family of six children.

FTA, Others Uphold Free Action By Unions In CIO

Joining with representatives of 10 other CIO unions in an effort to reserve freedom of political choice to the membership, FTA voted in the January CIO Executive Board meeting against a majority resolution repudiating a "third party movement in 1948" and urging all-out support for the Marshall Plan.

The vote, cast for FTA by President Donald Henderson as FTA's member on the national CIO Board, marked the first divided rollcall vote on a national issue recorded in CIO.

It was quickly followed by a statement to the newspapers from CIO President Philip Murray saying: "Nothing in this resolution is compulsory. CIO has been asked by thousands of members in the past two weeks to indicate its attitude toward a third party. It does not necessarily follow that the membership will accept CIO's advice."

During an eight hour debate on the resolution, the spokesmen of the unions in opposition to the majority tried to get the CIO Board to uphold the right of all CIO unions to decide for themselves on issues of policy when differences exist among them.

This position was expressed in a statement by President Albert J. Fitzgerald of UE-CIO, which said in part:

"When different viewpoints on candidates, parties and issues make unanimity unattainable, CIO should not widen division in our ranks.

"A clear declaration should be made that the CIO does not interfere with the right of any international union to endorse and support such candidates as they see fit in the same way internationals give their locals and their membership freedom of political action."

This position was supported by FTA and the leaders of CIO unions representing 1,500,000 members, not all of which have endorsed an independent political party or any particular candidate for President.

FTA President Henderson's vote followed the policy laid down earlier in the month by the FTA Executive Board, which unanimously recommended that FTA locals support a new people's party and work for the election of Henry Wallace and other progressive candidates in 1948. (See FTA News, Jan. 15.)

Following the CIO Board meeting, President Henderson stressed that FTA's policy remains one of supporting a new political party, of working for Henry Wallace for President and of supporting progressive candidates for Congress and other officers regardless of political affiliation. He also added that FTA will continue to work with CIO-PAC on Congressional and local issues.

Part of the majority resolution passed by the CIO Board was a blanket endorsement of the Marshall Plan, which FTA's Board had previously criticized in favor of aid through the United Nations.

This was also opposed by FTA and other unions on the Board, with an unsuccessful plea made by President Harry Bridges, of the Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union, to have it laid over for later discussion.

President Henderson speaking at CIO Executive Board meeting in Washington, D.C.

CIO BOARD VOTE

This is the minority vote in the CIO National Executive Board meeting on the question of endorsement of a new political party. The following CIO leaders voted against the majority resolution, on the ground that freedom of political choice should be left to the affiliated unions. The resolution passed by 33 to 11.

Against the Resolution

Donald Henderson, president, FTA-CIO.

Albert J. Fitzgerald, president, UE-CIO.

Julius Emspak, secretary-treasurer, UE-CIO.

Grant Oakes, president, Farm Equipment Workers.

Ben Gold, president, Fur and Leather Workers.

Morris Pizer, president, United Furniture Workers.

Harry Bridges, president, Longshoremen and Warehousemen.

Hugh Bryson, president, Marine Cooks and Stewards.

James Durkin, president, Office and Professional Workers.

Michael Quill, president, Transport Workers.

Ferdinand Smith, secretary, National Maritime Union.

(Note: NMU President Joseph Curran voted for the resolution.)

Two Board members, President Abram Flaxer of the Public Workers and President John Clark of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers abstained. Six were absent and could not vote.

FTA Hits Splitters

Sharply criticizing people within the CIO who "have tried to split the 70,000,000 workers in the World Federation of Trade Unions," the FTA Executive Board in its January meeting praised the world labor body and urged "world labor solidarity against all enemies of the working people."

(The WFTU was set up during the war to unite workers in all anti-Axis countries against fascism and oppression. Its main aims since the war have been to help rebuild the world labor movement and to aid colonial and semi-colonial people in their fight for freedom. FTA belongs to the WFTU through the CIO.)

(Brass tacks evidence of the value of WFTU came in the 1946 seamen's dispute with the shipowners, when European dock workers pledged through WFTU not to handle scab-manned U. S. ships. This solidarity also forced President Truman to drop plans to use the U. S. Navy to break the threatened strike.)

80 Wins Job Return Of Campbell Workers

Reinstated on her job with full seniority and back pay, Evelyn Mapp, militant young Campbell Soup shop steward, looked at her $136.80 back pay check this week and thanked her lucky stars that she's a member of Local 80.

Evelyn, who works in the raking department can division, was fired early last month when her foreman accused her of striking him with a rake and of using abusive language.

Taking the case to arbitration, the union claimed that Evelyn had been picked on and fired for being a militant shop steward. The arbitrator ruled in the union's favor, and now Evelyn is back on the job, determined to build the union.

Local 80 counts this as one in a long string of victories recently won through arbitration. In another case last month, the arbitrator ruled that 70 demerits is not the deciding factor for dismissal when an employee violates company rules.

"Whether, notwithstanding accumulation of demerits, a particular discharge is in violation of applicable contractual provisions, remains a question which may be raised by the union; and in the event of continuing disagreement as to that question, it is an issue to be arbitrated in accordance with the contract," the arbitrators ruled.

Maude Phillips, another employe at Campbell's who was fired because she is allergic to tomatoes, was also ordered reinstated with full seniority as soon as a job which she can perform is available.

BLAST PARTIES ON WAGE HOUR PLOTS

Both the Democrats and the Republicans were blasted by the FTA Executive Board for their part in the plot to wreck the wage hour act in Congress, first exposed by FTA President Henderson and virtually admitted by Congressmen most closely involved.

"Reactionaries of both parties in Congress are in a conspiracy to tear the heart out of the wage hour act just as the heart was torn out of the Wagner act," the resolution said.

"The conspiracy is aimed directly at workers under FTA-CIO jurisdiction, and is planned to rob them of the small legal protection they now have against an excessively long work week and lower earnings.

"This is to be done by exempting employers from payment of time and a half for overtime and by allowing an unlimited work week at straight time pay."

The resolution urges all labor unions and liberal groups to unite in saving the wage and hour act and in raising the base pay to $1 an hour, without exemptions from overtime, and to extend the act to workers not covered now.

FTA's charge of a plot to kill the act was proved correct when the submittee of Congress in charge of the act refused to let Henderson appear before it and even refused to let the statement be accepted for the record.

It was simply a case of guilty men refusing to face their accuser.

'Practical Politics'

$400,000 TAX GIFT TO TOBACCO TRUST

Children of Forsyth County, N. C., may die in epidemics from shockingly unsanitary conditions in their schools . . . farmers and homeowners will almost certainly have a sharp tax increase added to their burdens . . .

But the Forsyth County Commissioners will have the comfort of knowing that they have "done their duty" by the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., daddy of all Camel cigarettes and king of practically everything it surveys in Winston-Salem execpt FTA Local 22.

The Commissioners have just voted a 40 per cent cut in the tax rate on tobacco stored for aging in this county. That adds up to a gift of some $400,000—just about one-fifth of the county's total budget—which is being passed over to the tobacco interests. That means mostly to Reynolds.

Not that Reynolds needs it—the company's cigarette business, according to production estimates, went up 12.4 per cent last year, and its profits after taxes rose $4,159,587. And Reynolds "just" makes $3,081 profit a year off each of its workers, compared to $451 for the huge U.S. Steel Corp., according to 1946 figures.

No, Reynolds didn't need the help. It could pay all its workers a 24½-cent wage raise out of the 1947 increase in profits alone. The Forsyth County Commissioners were just being "extra nice" to the select few who own tobacco property with taxable value of some $170,000,000—approximately half the total taxable property voluation of the county.

But such matters as health for the children and a decent chance for education don't seem to weigh much with Reynolds and its friends among the commissioners, when compared to another hundred thousand or so to be added to the $708,000,000 taken in by the company last year.

The big tobacco corporations make their huge profits off the labor of local residents, and off tobacco produced from the soil that belongs to the citizens. They have a moral and social responsibility to contribute to the support of schools and government, in proportion to the huge profits they take out, regardless of whether they might save a few tax dollars by storing their tobacco somewhere else. (The Forsyth tax on a $600 hogshead amounts only to $2.83 a year).

Instead, with the eager cooperation of officials supposed to represent the people, the tobacco kings in Forsyth county have just shifted an even bigger share of the burden to those least able to pay . . . and have seriously undermined the county's already shaky financial structure in the process.

Dig into your pocketbooks, brothers and sisters. Dig deep. Reynolds is hungry.

THE HIGH COST OF EATING

The Senators in Washington now "considering" what to do about the high cost of eating were told a few simple facts on what's happened to the cost of food in a statement submitted by FTA along with rank and file testimony (see page 3).

The facts are taken from FTA's new pamphlet, "The High Cost of Eating—Its Cause and Cure" now in preparation. They show:

1. Net profits (after taxes) of food corporations in 1946 were three times the prewar level and 81 percent above 1945, the last full year of price control.

2. In the first six months of 1947, net profits of food corporations were running up to 50 percent above 1946 levels—and 1946 showed the highest profits on record.

3. Wage increases are not responsible for high food prices. A wholesale price increase of about one and a half percent would have more than covered all the wage raises won by food workers between June 1946 and August 1947.

Instead wholesale food prices went up 60 percent in the same period. Obviously food workers aren't getting the gravy.

4. As a matter of fact, the real wages of food workers ("real wages" means what the worker can buy with his pay, compared to what he used to buy) went down over 2 percent between June 1946 and August 1947.

Prices UP, profits UP—wages down. That's the story.

In The Locals

78 Takes Lead In PAC

Approximately 125 delegates from every CIO local in the state of Arizona met in Phoenix to establish an Arizona CIO Political Action Committee.

Verda Barnes, national field representative of CIO-PAC, Washington, D. C. chaired the meeting, and Ann Tinnon, Secretary-Treasurer, Local 78, FTA-CIO, acted as secretary until the election of temporary officers took place. Speakers included Al Skinner, PAC Director of the CIO Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, Chicago, Illinois, Jerry Conway, PAC Director for United Steelworkers, Los Angeles, California and Orville Larson, Board member of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers for this district.

Reports were made by each local union on progress in registering their members and their families of voting age. Plans were made for checking membership lists against the list of registered voters and caravans to be organized to take unregistered people to the registrar's office.

Voting records of Arizona's two Senators and two Congressmen were distributed and discussed. Partial voting records of the State Legislators were passed out and the Committee agreed to furnish complete voting records of State Legislators to each local union.

Support was voted and contributions raised for the striking workers of Local 78, FTA-CIO after Ann Tinnon, Chairman of Finance committee reported that 110 families in Salt River Valley had to be helped.

Temporary officers elected were: Chairman, Charles Law, FTA-CIO Local No. 78, Phoenix, Arizona; Secretary, Orville Larson, Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Globe, Arizona.

Each local union in the state will have one delegate and one alternate on the state CIO-PAC executive board. Each International union in the state will have a delegate on the state board.

The Arizona CIO-PAC will meet again in Phoenix to complete a program for political action in the state which will include cooperation with other labor unions, old age pensioners and other liberal groups.

194 Unit Helps Members

Local 194's Labor Standards Committee has really been paying dividends — in cold cash. Straightening out premium beefs for the workers is this committee's job at the Campbell Soup plant in Chicago.

Recently, Dorothy O'Neil, a worker in the raw chicken department, got $54 in back pay through the efforts of Josephine Chlupsa, Labor Standards Committee chairman.

Another worker, Minnie Parker, received $21.

Said Sister O'Neil, "I appreciate what the union did for me because I was working in the dark and didn't know what to do. The back pay means a whole lot to me."

82 ASKS 20% RAISE

Members of Local 82 are asking for a 20 cent increase in hourly rates and a 20% increase for piece work rates at the Pacific Grape Products and Stanislaus canneries in Modesto, Calif., and the Califruit plant in Manteca.

Other demands include a 40 hour week with no exemptions, union shop with checkoff, seniority, seven paid holidays, paid vacations of 20 hours for every 300 hours worked, 15 minute paid rest periods, a night shift bonus and a health and welfare fund.

The companies replied to the union's demands by a notice that the contracts would be terminated when they expire. Attempts to begin negotiations immediately have not budged them.

Pacific Grape Products Co. labor relations director R. M. Tomson called a meeting of the workers in the plant and gave them a sales talk on the benefits of a company union. He began by giving them a wage increase of five, 10 and 15 cents, with the five cent increase going to 80% of the lowest-paid workers. This was in no way connected with the struggle of the workers, he indicated, but was an outright gift of the employer and a down payment for a company union.

300 Elects Officers

Local 300's first constitutional convention held last month in Lima, O., marked a milestone in FTA organization at the DWG cigar plants in Michigan and Ohio.

Sally Sullivan was unanimously drafted for president and local organizer with cries of "we need Sally." Other officers elected were: Dorothy Vandezande, vice-president; Helen Pohlabel, financial secretary; Violet Schifferly, secretary; Flossie Mills, Edna Boroff, and Hazel Bonifas, trustees; and Viola Bush, editor of Local 300's newspaper.

More than 125 delegates from Arizona CIO unions met in FTA Local 78's hall in Phoenix this month to set up a statewide committee for political action. Delegates took time out to chip in with cash for Local 78's Salt River Valley members, still on strike against the packingshed owners and shippers there.

SHED WORKERS NEED HELP IN 16th WEEK OF ARIZONA STRIKE

Shattering all previous strike records, Local 78 fresh fruit and vegetable workers are still holding strong against the grower-shippers in Salt River Valley, Arizona, for the 16th week. Cars are gone, money is gone, but the spirit is there.

"I've been working in the strike kitchen for 12 to 16 hours a day ever since the strike began," says Mrs. Fannie Lacy, head of the strike kitchen, a member of Local 78 since 1938.

"We've been serving three meals a day to the strikers, sandwiches and coffee for the pickets, and we pack soup and sandwiches for the children.

"When I started packing lettuce, I got 50 cents an hour and worked from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 a.m. the next day—then had to walk home for two hours. After all, I've got six children to support.

"This is everybody's fight. If we don't win, it will be very tough for the next union to be hit.

"Those of us who had cars have lost them during this strike. But, the thing we need most is money. Those strikers and their kids have to be fed."

Two other women members, Mrs. Lou Saulsberry and Mrs. Dorotha Law, told the same story when they went to visit Los Angeles CIO unions to raise money for the strike.

"We know what we're striking for, and we're not going to quit," said Mrs. Saulsberry, who works in the strike kitchen from 7 a.m. to 10 at night.

Pioneer FTA shed worker Charles Law compared this strike to the famous 63-day lettuce strike of 1936 in Salinas, Calif. But, he says, "where the strike of '36 resulted in the destruction of the union, this strike has solidified the workers into the union."

Negotiations with some of the same shippers are going on in California, where it is hoped agreement there will establish the pattern for a settlement with the strike-bound sheds.

Meanwhile, says Charlie Law "we are not only broke, but have extended our credit to the breaking point. Even with an immediate settlement of the strike, no work will be available for at least another six weeks."

Contributions should be rushed to Local 78, 2108 W. Buckeye Rd., Phoenix, Arizona.

FTA COUNCIL SEES WALLACE SUPPORT

Take the offensive against the bosses" was the slogan raised at the first meeting of the newly amalgamated South Atlantic Regional Council held in Suffolk last month where delegates represented FTA locals from Georgia and Alabama to Virginia.

"We must strengthen our local for the coming attacks of the bosses under the Taft-Hartley act—and we must do more," said regional Director Karl Korstad.

"By building strong unions in our plants, and by building a strong, new people's political party, we must gon on the offensive against the bosses. We must start now to move forward on all fronts."

FTA Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane and International Vice-President Robert Lathan pointed to the need for intensified political action in terms of how political issues affect the workers' income.

"We can't have too many leaders," said Lane, urging more active participation of the members in their locals.

Coming out strongly in support of Wallace and the Third Party, delegates reported on the pro-Wallace sentiment in their locals and divisions. Richmond Local 57 president Adele Ellis told how her local is fully supporting Wallace. In the South Boston division of Local 10, Thelma Stokes reported that 400 South Boston workers have signed petitions for Wallace, and in Rocky Mount, Juanita Bynum said that the whole division is for Wallace for President.

Over 2,000 workers, ministers and professionals in Winston-Salem have come out for the third party, Carrie Speaks of Local 22 said. Max Sussman, business agent of Local 57 in Richmond, reported that he was surprised even to find that some foremen are in favor of Wallace and against the Virginia Democratic machine controlled by Senator Byrd.

It is the opinion of many Negro leaders that they can expect nothing from the Democrats or Republicans, Lou Kalb reported. "They know what Wallace has done and what he stands for.

Decisions to carry out the political campaign included the setting up of a Wallace committee in every plant and local union; distribution of Wallace literature at plant gates and to the community; a campaign for registrations and the payment of poll-taxes; and a petition campaign to get Wallace and the new people's party on the ballot in each state where there is an FTA local.

Ask 30c At Campbell's

A wage increase of 30 cents an hour for workers at the Campbell Soup Co. in Camden and Chicago was asked by negotiators for Local 80 and Local 194, meeting this week in Philadelphia with management.

In a statement issued for the negotiating committee by Vice-President Lewis Bentzley of FTA-CIO, the union said:

"We ask for this increase because Campbell Soup workers are not getting enough to live on or to bring up their families properly.

"The Federal government's own figures, released by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, call for a minimum annual take-home pay of $3,389.00 for a worker with four dependents living in the Philadelphia area, and for $3,325.00 a year for a family living in Chicago.

"The real wages of Campbell Soup workers have gone down in the past two years by from 29 to 32 cents an hour due to the loss in the purchasing power of the worker's dollar.

"The only way this loss can be made up is through a wage increase. Campbell Soup can well afford to pay this and an even greater increase without inroads on its well guarded profits."

CORRECTION

The Mississippi Delta Regional Council meeting went on record for help to the people of Europe without political strings, and opposed the Marshall Plan, is the way the story should have read in the last issue of FTA News on page 5.

FTA Hits 15-30c Pay

Recommended wages of 15-16 cents an hour for cannery and packing workers and 30 cents for cigar workers in Puerto Rico were sharply condemned in a message sent by FTA President Henderson to the Wage Hour Administration in Washington, D. C. this week.

These proposals, FTA has learned, were agreed to in recent industry committee meetings in Puerto Rico attended by "labor" representatives as well as industry leaders.

The cannery and packing recommendations "should receive a prize as the most cynical and scandalous action of 1947," Henderson said. "The rate of 30 cents an hour for cigar workers is equally scandalous. If agreed to, it would serve to cut the already inadequate earnings of thousands of organized and unorganized cigar workers in the U. S."

Henderson urged the Wage Hour authorities to reject them "and propose a decent minimum wage" in their place.

Mrs. Viola Scott, secretary to Henry Wallace, smiles as she and Barbara Cordany sort out some of the thousands of wires and letters congratulating Wallace on his decision to run for President on an independent ticket. The messages cheered Wallace for his fight for peace, security and an end to all forms of discrimination and Jim Crow.

WHAT PRICE LIVING?

FTA-CIO wants to know how much it is costing you to live these days. The information is needed in contract negotiations for wage increases. Please fill out this questionnaire and return to: Research Dept., FTA-CIO, 158 N. 20th St., Philadelphia 3, Pa.

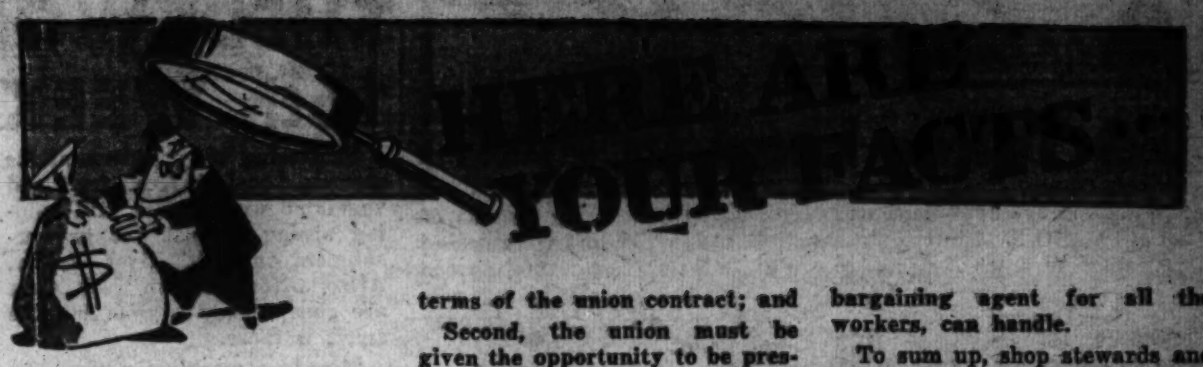
ALL INFORMATION IS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. YOU DO NOT NEED TO SIGN YOUR NAME.

By answering this questionnaire you will help FTA-CIO and the National CIO in Washington in preparing policies to protect your living standards.

1. City:..... Industry:..... Your Job:.....
2. Sex:..... Age:..... Married?.....
3. Are you the head of the family?.....
4. How many people in your family?.....
5. In addition to you, how many others go to work?.....
6. What is your average weekly take-home pay?.....
7. What is the total average weekly take-home pay of all the members of the family?.....
8. Does the family have any other type of income (such as pension, rent, etc?)..... If yes, list type and amount:.....
9. How much does your family spend on food each week? (Including lunches eaten away from home).....
10. Because of rising prices, have you had to reduce the amounts purchased of the following items, compared with a year ago? If yes, indicate how much was reduced of each item on a weekly basis.

	Yes or No	If Yes, how much?
Milk (Quarts)	.....	.....
Butter (Pounds)	.....	.....
Eggs (Dozens)	.....	.....
Meats (Pounds)	.....	.....

11. Has your rent been increased in the last few months?..... If yes, from $..... to $.....
12. In the last few months, have you had to borrow, or use up savings, in order to meet living expenses?.....
13. Are your total savings now greater or less than a year ago? ..... By how much?.....
14. Do you now have more than $300 in total savings? (War Bonds, savings account, checking account, cash).....
15. If you (and your famliy) had more money to spend, how would you spend it? (For instance, would you buy more food, clothing, medical service, automobile, etc?) .....
16. During the last year, prices have risen. Perhaps your wages have too. Everything considered, are you better off financially (that is, how much are you able to buy with your earnings) than you were a year ago? Check one.
    Better off..... Worse off..... Just about the same.....
17. Whom would you blame primarily for today's high prices?
    Business?..... Congress?..... Labor?..... Farmers?.....
    Whom else?..... Why?.....
18. Would you personally be willing to have price control brought back in order to help check the rising cost of living?.....
19. Would you personally be willing to have rationing instituted for necessities that are really scarce, so that all the people may share available supplies at fair prices?.....



Grievance Adjustment Under Taft-Hartley

By JOSEPH CALIFF
Research & Education Director

A number of people in the union have asked questions about how the Taft-Hartley act affects the procedure for settling grievances.

To begin with, the Taft-Hartley act does not make any changes in the way a shop steward handles his job. Stewards and other union bargaining representatives can and should continue to take up and settle grievances in exactly the same way under the new law as they did before it was passed.

The law does change the rules on grievance procedure in one respect. Under the old Wagner act, where there was a union in the plant only the union could settle grievances. An individual worker was allowed to present his grievance to his foreman if he wanted to, but that was as far as he could go. He was not allowed to settle the grievance by himself.

After he presented the grievance, the foreman had to call in the union and the grievance was then adjusted between the union and the company. In other words, the union was the sole bargaining agent for all the workers in handling grievances.

The new law changes this rule. Section 9(a) of the Taft-Hartley act says that individual workers or groups of workers may not only present grievances to their foremen, but they may also settle their grievances with the company without calling on the union to represent them.

However, the law does require that if a worker takes up his grievance with the company directly rather than through the union, two conditions have to be met:

First, the settlement of the grievance must not violate the terms of the union contract; and

Second, the union must be given the opportunity to be present at all times while the grievance is being adjusted.

It is important to remember these two rules and see that they are enforced if a worker should try to take up his grievance alone.

Even more important, shop stewards should not allow any worker or group of workers to by-pass the union grievance procedure except on strictly personal grievances. If the grievance is concerned with a matter which also affects other workers in the plant, then he must insist that only the union may handle it.

The law allows a worker to take up his own personal grievances by himself. But the union is the recognized collective bargaining agent for the workers as a whole, and any grievance which concerns other workers, or conditions in the plant generally, can only be settled by the union.

For example, a worker who claims he is not being paid the proper, agreed-upon wage rate for the job he is doing is allowed under the Taft-Hartley act to take up the matter directly with his foreman. But if he were to claim that the job itself was underpaid, that is a matter of wage rates generally; it affects the whole bargaining unit and therefore can only be handled through the union.

In the same way grievances over general working conditions, such as heating, lighting, sanitation, speed of machines, and all matters relating to interpretation of the contract, are things which only the union, as the bargaining agent for all the workers, can handle.

To sum up, shop stewards and other union grievance representatives should remember these four points in handling grievances:

1) Don't fall for any company claims that the Taft-Hartley law limits your right to represent and settle grievances for the workers in your department or shop.

2) Be on the alert to see that all grievances are taken up and adjusted promptly, and discourage workers from taking their grievances directly to the boss.

3) If you are unable to persuade a worker not to take up his grievance alone, be sure to insist on your right under the law to be present at all times while that grievance is being discussed. Make sure that the settlement does not violate the terms of the union contract.

4) Do not allow any grievance to be taken up outside the union which directly or indirectly affects the workers or the bargaining unit as a whole.

Taft and Hartley put this provision in the law to give the bosses a weapon to use in trying to split workers away from their union, as a step toward destroying the union altogether. They tried to hide their real purpose by claiming that they wanted to give the workers more "freedom."

Shop stewards have a special responsibility to see that workers do not fall into this trap, and that they understand that the only "freedom" the Taft-Hartley act gives to American workers is the freedom to cut their own throats.

'WHEN A BODY MEETS A BODY'

When an "Employe's Association" in this case, the R. J. Reynolds Employe's Association—endorses Local 22's campaign for a better contract in 1948—that's news. And here's the story behind it:

The Association, long discredited by Reynolds workers, called an open public meeting. It was attended by an overflow of Reynolds workers, and they wanted what honest workers want of any organization they pay dues to.

They passed a resolution endorsing the campaign of Local 22 for a better contract with better wages, guarantees against unemployment due to new machinery, and strong seniority and grievance protection.

They passed resolutions calling on the "Association" to disband itself, and to call upon the Reynolds Tobacco Company to instruct its foremen and supervisors to stop putting pressure on any workers to join in or support the Association as decreed in 1944 by the U. S. Court of Appeals.

Everyone present voted for the resolutions except a handful of Association members, who all of a sudden disappeared.

BLAST GOP, DEMS ON LYNCH BILL DELAY

FTA fired a double barrelled blast at both Republican and Democratic party leaders for their stalling tactics on the Federal anti-lynching bill (HR 3488) now before Congress.

In statements issued by FTA Vice-President Robert Lathan and Local 80 chief shop steward Ben Butler, the union criticized the two old parties for continued refusal to live up to promises to end the crime of lynching.

"Failure to pass the bill now will be seen by our members as proof that neither the Republican leaders in Congress nor the Democratic leaders in the Administration mean what they say when they promise our people relief," Lathan said.

"Fine words in Presidential reports on civil rights and fine promises in campaign platforms will not save the lives of our people. Only action to punish lynchers and prevent future lynchings will."

Butler reminded the politicians sharply that this is an election year, saying: "The working people, both white and Negro, remember the promises made by both old parties. They will note and remember the action taken by the 80th Congress on the Federal anti-lynching bill."

Win Gains In Cotton Oil

With the signing of a new contract between Local 19 and Swift Cotton Oil Co. this month, the union has completed contract renewals with the entire cotton oil industry in Memphis except two Perkins plants.

Wage gains of 10 cents an hour were won at two Buckeye plants, Swifts, and two Armour subsidiaries—Memphis Cotton Oil and Jackson Cotton Oil, setting an 80 cent an hour minimum in each plant but Jackson Cotton Oil where the minimum is 75 cents.

Workers at these plants now have six paid holidays with overtime if worked; at least one week's vacation with pay for the first year, with more for higher seniority; and irrevocable checkoff.

Overtime pay provisions at the Buckeye plants are time and a half over eight hours a day and 40 hours a week, and double-time for the seventh day. At Swift's, it is time and a half after 48 hours a week and double time for Sunday.

At De Soto the gains were a four cent increase, 74 cent minimum, time and one-half pay after 8 and 40, irrevocable checkoff and paid vacations.

Besides the gains at cotton oil plants, Local 19 also won a 10 cent an hour increase and 80 cent minimum at Pillsbury Flour with six paid holidays. At two Federal Compress plants the gains were a five cent increase with a 70 cent minimum. At Malone and [illegible] wholesale grocers, the irrevocable checkoff, and an average guaranteed work week of 48 hours were won.

A CHOICE FOR THE PEOPLE

"We would not have been forced to build a new party if the Democratic administration had not abandoned the Roosevelt program."

When the Democratic leadership abandoned the New Deal and the fight for peace it abandoned victory in 1948.

Only a new party will expose the money-changers' control of the nation's economic and political life. The new party will be built on the cooperation and common effort of the worker, the white-collar and professional groups, the independent businessman and the farmer, groups which the old monopoly-controlled parties are cynically devoted to keeping apart.

These groups of Americans did unite behind the progressive principles and programs of Roosevelt. Given the opportunity, they will unite again. They will fight together in a third party and carry on an organized battle against war and depression.

The Big Money boys do not allow either of their political parties to tackle forthrightly the fundamental problem of inflation. They do not permit it, because the heart of that problem is their own super-profits made at the expense of American living standards.

Inflation is setting off a chain reaction which can result in the most devastating explosion in the nation's history.

The monopolists and their Congressional servants have used an organized and effective propaganda campaign to confuse the American people and hide from them the real causes of inflation.

Yet it is simple to discover who and what is responsible for inflation. We have only to determine who profits from inflation.

Looking at the inflation picture today we see most Americans struggling to make ends meet, while the giant corporations are piling up unprecedented profits.

It is the big corporations who are the beneficiaries of inflation. It is the big corporations, through their political employees, who have brought inflation.

The Third Attack

Wall Street's third main attack in the drive to protect and increase its super-profits was to undermine the collective bargaining defenses of American workers. The Congress responded to this big business demand by enacting the Taft-Hartley law.

The law was actually written by men representing corporations which had bitterly fought and sabotaged the Wagner Labor Relations Act from the day it went on the statute books.

It was the inevitable product of President Truman's demands to both the 79th Congress and the 80th Congress for anti-labor legislation.

Workers in this country will not forget Harry Truman's angry call for legislation to draft strikers into the army as he made an unnecessary, dramatic appearance before Congress to break the railroad strike. Workers in this country will not forget the revival of the injunction to break the miners' strike.

These actions lined up the Truman administration with its Wall Street supporters against the people.

Workers in this country will not forget the conditions surrounding the President's veto of the Taft-Hartley bill. The evidence is impressive that his veto followed careful calculations that it would be overridden. As my former Cabinet colleague, Harold Ickes, has pointed out, the Democratic leader in the Senate, Alben Barkley, told his forces to vote as they pleased. Mr. Ickes pointed out that Senator Barkley is a loyal party leader and "would not have said this unless he knew there was no real desire that the veto be sustained."

The first step in meeting the inflation crisis is to give substantial wage increases to the workers. These increases could easily come out of exorbitant corporation profits without raising prices. The increased purchasing power of workers will shore up the American standard of living. Maintaining their purchasing power is essential to every farmer, small businessman and professional person.

This need for a wage increase is desperate. The U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated that in the middle of 1947 $62 a week was necessary for a minimum budget for a family of four. Since that estimate was made it would take an extra $4 a week to purchase the same necessities. The actual wage in the manufacturing industries average roughly $50 a week, and that inadequate figure is higher than in most other employment.

We can indeed, as President Truman said in his recent message to Congress, double the living standards of the American people. But we do not need to wait ten years to do it. Prompt wage increases out of corporate profits and workers sharing in the profits of increased productivity can start us at once on the course of rising living standards.

The bi-partisan program rejects prosperity and a high standard of living for the American people. The Republicans offer the longer hours of work, while the administration Democrats propose a wage freeze.

We must unite those who would raise the standards of all our people, who know that wage increases can combat the effects of inflation. The big business propaganda that wage increases are inflationary and cause price increases salves the conscience of some people, but does not fool the workers. They are cutting through this propaganda to the facts. They know there is absolutely no justification to the charge that wage increases must be followed by further price increases.

The volume of profits today is so large that a substantial wage increase could be paid and prices could be cut and still leave corporate profits both before and after taxes at a level very much higher than before the war.

Those who oppose wage increases, claiming they are inflationary, are not really trying to defend the country against inflation. They are preaching the need for a lowered American standard of living.

They are trying to sell the inhuman idea that prosperity is the cause of inflation. They are saying that we must have poverty to halt inflation.

This is the essence of the bi-partisan "east less" policy of Taft and Truman. We must reject this "eat less" philosophy.

To combat inflation, to keep independent business alive, to preserve the farmers' markets, to keep professional people occupied, there must be an immediate substantial increase in workers' wages.

$1 Minimum Wage

Today the Fair Labor Standards Act should be amended to provide a one-dollar an hour minimum wage. No section of the President's recent message on the state of the union showed more clearly his cynical disregard for the fundamental problems of workers than his call for a 75 cents an hour minimum wage. Today he repeats his request of 1946, refusing to recognize that it would take 94 cents to buy what 75 cents bought two years ago.

Not only did the President ignore the necessity of providing a real minimum wage but he failed to demand protection by the Fair Labor Standards Act for workers not now covered. Today the 40-hour week is in jeopardy and big business is exerting pressure for an increase in the basic work week to 44 or 48 hours. There is danger that Congress may go through the motions of granting an increase in the minimum wage while increasing the minimum work week and removing millions of workers from coverage of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

It is the job of the American people to support the wage fights of the trade unions because higher wage levels mean better times for the independent businessman and the farmer. The independent businessman and the farmer are already suffering from the reduced purchasing power of the great mass of the American people. As a farmer I am particularly mindful of the fact that inflation is hitting the farmer. We are paying prices which are much higher than the prices we get, and the purchasing power of most American farmers has dropped considerably below what it was in the fall of 1946.

It will take a vigorous, well-organized third party—speaking a language politicians understand, the language of votes, to secure the repeal of the Taft-Hartley act. The leadership of both the Republican and Democratic Parties has clearly demonstrated that in practice they support this bi-partisan anti-labor legislation.

With this law, Congress made the government an agent of monopoly to be used to smash trade union rights. The final objective is the complete destruction of the trade union movement.

The full effects of the Taft-Hartley law will not be felt for some time. I predict that by impeding organizing drives it will have a profound and evil effect on the economy of the South and help keep that great region in a semi-colonial status. As unscrupulous employers pit southern labor against northern labor and white workers against Negro workers it will harm the entire nation.

The heart of the Taft-Hartley law is the old device of dividing natural allies. It raises false political issues in every union. It seeks to divide industrial unions into craft unions and craft unions into sub-craft unions.

But the Taft-Hartley law is only one weapon in the arsenal which big business is using against labor. Its bi-partisan agents, the Republican Thomas and the Democrat Rankin, have developed the extraordinary "contempt of Congress" device by which men are sentenced to jail on technicalities.

The administration's war policy—its Truman Doctrine and misnamed European recovery program—requires a strictly controlled economy; an economy that is, which is controlled by big business. This war policy must inevitably lead to ever higher prices and bigger profits. War programs always have and they always will.

The President's request for a wage-freeze is in line with his service to big business on every major question confronting the American people today. Against this reality his pie-in-the-sky promises of higher living standards are an insult to the intelligence of the American people. The goals to which he pays lip service cannot be realized without striking at the source of inflation: profiteering. Likewise, it is impossible to realize these promises without giving up the drive toward war.

The fight against the war program is a fight to improve the living standards of the American people.

WALLACE SPEAKS TO LABOR

Continuing his campaign of bringing the issues to the people, Henry Wallace spoke to the labor movement on wages, prices and profits in his speech to the second annual convention of the Progressive Citizens of America in Chicago in January.

Already on record as the only Presidential candidate in favor of higher wages and the repeal of the Taft-Hartley act, Wallace said:

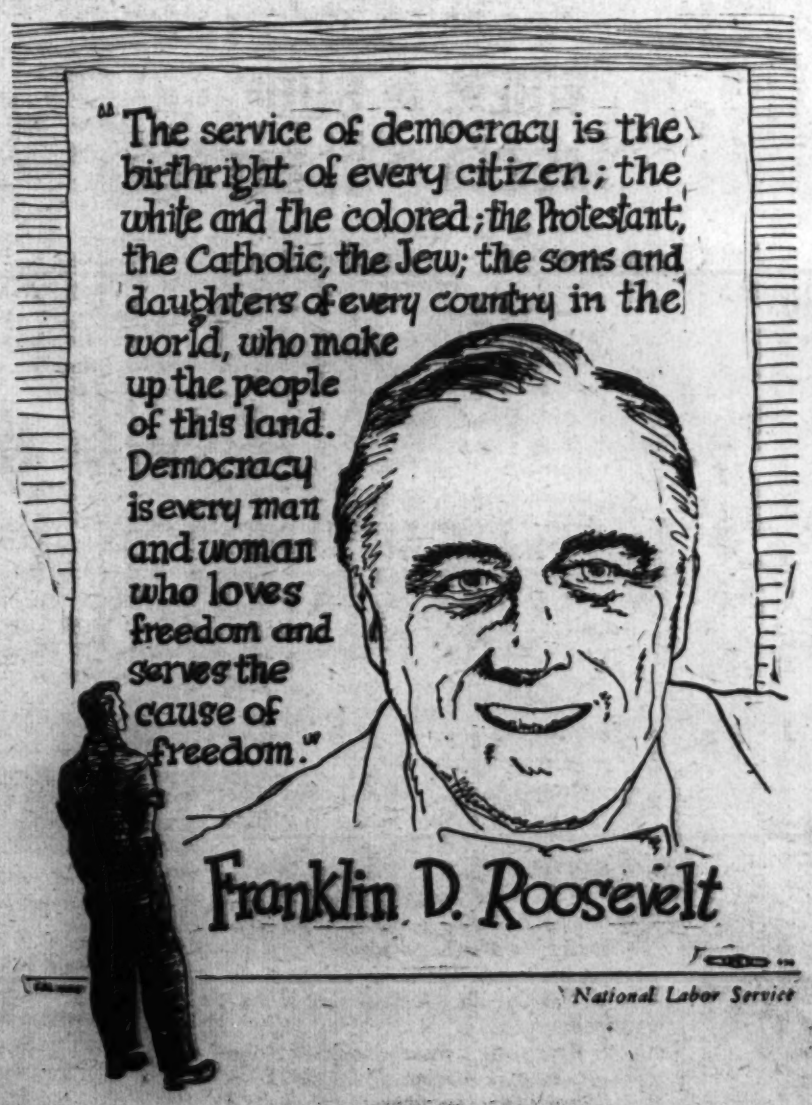
"Those who oppose wage increases, claiming they are inflationary, are not really trying to defend the country against inflation. They are preaching the need for a lowered American standard of living. . .

"It is to the vital interests of all the people to support the fight for repeal of the Taft-Hartley law. . .

"The Fair Labor Standards act should be amended to provide a $1.00 an hour minimum wage. . .

"The fight against the war program is a fight to improve the living standards of the American people."

Excerpts from Wallace's Chicago speech are on this page.


"The service of democracy is the birthright of every citizen; the white and the colored; the Protestant, the Catholic, the Jew; the sons and daughters of every country in the world, who make up the people of this land. Democracy is every man and woman who loves freedom and serves the cause of freedom."
Franklin D. Roosevelt
National Labor Service

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PRESSMAN TO AID WALLACE DRIVE

Lee Pressman, CIO general counsel since its formation in 1936, has resigned to devote time to private labor law practice and to help in the Wallace campaign.

One of the most noted labor attorneys in the U.S., Pressman has helped FTA in numerous cases in the courts and in repeated appearances before the National Labor Relations Board, the old War Labor Board and other government agencies. He worked with FTA on the northern California cannery case, on wage cases and is currently working on the Arkansas cases in which two FTA members were unjustly imprisoned following the scab-killing of a striker.

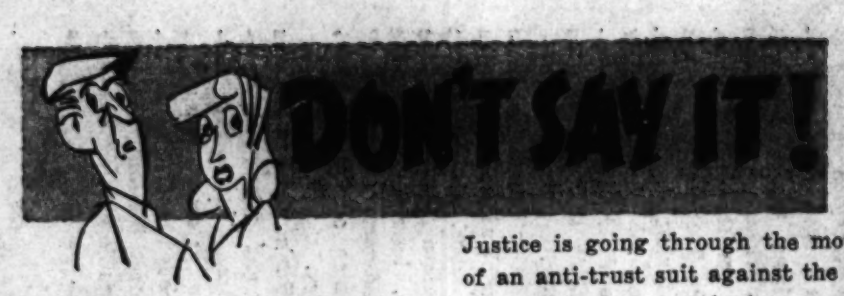
Perhaps Pressman's greatest triumph before the Supreme Court was the final ruling three years ago that Harry Bridges, president of the CIO Longshoremen and Warehousemen, was entitled to American citizenship and could not be deported. Pressman had led this fight in the long seven year attempt of west coast shipowners to have Bridges sent out of the country.

In announcing his resignation, Pressman said that he would continue to work on pending cases until they are cleared up.

LEE PRESSMAN

To Publish Year Book

Embarking on an intensive fund-raising campaign, the Michigan-Ohio region of FTA is sponsoring an FTA Tenth Anniversary year book. All regions and locals desiring to place greetings in the year book should write FTA at 1442 Griswold St., Room 301, Detroit, Mich.



High profits are not due to "lust," a vice-president of the Proctor and Gamble Company told the Senate Banking and Currency Committee. It's good to know that whatever the company's motives, at least there's nothing sexy about them.

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P & G (FTA has contracts with their cotton oil mills) made $77,000,000 clear profit in the first half of 1947, biggest in history. Shareholders got $12 a share. Soap went up in price six times in 1947.

* * *

We hate to harp on profits, but here's what Editor and Publisher (the newspaper owners magazine) says ought to be done—the papers should play 'em down. Seems people get "misconceptions" about business and free enterprise if they read too much about profits.

* * *

General Electric has been bringing prices down—on television sets. Obviously GE is aiming at the huge working class public that buys $1,000 television sets regularly. With statesmanship like that at the head of industry, how can we fail?

* * *

Dr. Paul H. Nystrom, the college professor who believes workers aren't worth more than 40 cents an hour, made a speech about inflation to (of all things) the National Potato Chip Institute. Potato chips sell at about 25 cents for a three-ounce bag. That figures out to about $1.30 a pound for potatoes. Let us hope the potato chip kings listened hard to the good professor.

* * *

The same Dr. Nystrom also said he thought factories and barns should get building materials before houses. Seems machines and horses lose their value if they don't have a roof over their heads. Veterans, of course, are something else.

* * *

Quickest trip in and out of the courtroom was made last week by none other than President Truman's Secretary of Commerce, W. Averill Harriman. Harriman owns a railway and the U. S. Department of Justice is going through the motions of an anti-trust suit against the railroads. Monday morning's paper announced that Harriman was on the list. That lasted three hours, until the first afternoon paper came out to announce that Harriman wasn't going to be indicted, that it was all a "mistake."

* * *

The FBI, busy day and night hunting "reds" and persecuting union members hasn't got time for the real criminals in the U. S.—the lynchers and the Ku Kluxers, to say nothing of the fascist agents in Congress and the law violators among employers.

* * *

"Unemployment brings needed rest to millions, whether they are ready for it or not . . . We ought to show all the people that we need those depressions . . ." Dr. Ralph Blodgett, economist for the National Association of Manufacturers.

* * *

Big chunks of your money (you're a taxpayer, aren't you?) are going to help keep the Greek king on his throne. That's all part of the Marshall plan. This same Greek king and his government have just passed a decree ordering strikers to be shot. Plenty of employers in this country would like to have the same kind of law. If we let them get away with it in Greece, they'll try it here.

* * *

Incidentally, the top brass in parts of the labor movement that's supporting the Marshall Plan have a real beef with the Natl. Association of Manufacturers. Seems the NAM chose the same day as they chose to come out with a statement supporting the Plan. Such things can get to be embarrassing.

* * *

President Truman talks a good civil rights program, But President Truman's Attorney-General Tom Clark refuses to use already existing laws to punish lynchers, just as President Truman as Commander-in-Chief refuses to abolish jim crow in the armed forces. And the Constitution itself, if applied by the men sworn to uphold it, would abolish the poll tax.

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Ruth, 10 and Lois, 11 went to Washington with their father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus J. Waud of Camden, N.J., to tell the Senators what life is like on a Campbell Soup worker's takehome pay. The children also gave the Senators a price control petition with over 3,000 names on it, which they are looking at here. Mr. Waud told the Senators plenty—for what he said, turn to page 3.